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JUST WRITE A LETTER

Agriculture

(Continued from Sixth Page)

People in the North, who may have seen that Pensacola had weather in the first week of December that reached one degree below freezing point, will perhaps conclude that such a condition prevails all over the State; which of course, is not true. A difference of from 10 to 20 degrees prevails between the northern border of Florida and where its sandy southern line is swept by the waters of the Gulf. When one is shivering in Jacksonville, others are sweltering in Key West and in the lower counties. Writers on Florida climate get their impressions from the environments that surround them; these, being local, vary with the latitude of location. Roses bloom and berries ripen in one section, while in another a thin coating of ice robs vegetation of its beauty and usefulness.

Three crops a year, off three-quarters of an acre of Polk County land, is the story told by W. R. Griffin of Pebble to the editor of the Bartow Courier-Informant. Turnips, selling for \$125; then potatoes, \$100; then sugar cane, stalks and seed, \$135; to which is to be added 200 gallons of "delicious syrup," valued at least 50 cents per gallon, or \$100, making a sum total of \$460. But it will be hard to make the Northern or Western farmer believe that Florida sand is good for anything. Yet it is on record that one acre along the Georgia border line has produced 738 gallons of syrup, thus showing that Mr. Griffin might have done very much better than he did. Here's "opportunity" for lots of new settlers to seize and succeed in.

As alfalfa is now being advocated by many interested in Florida agriculture, the conductor of this department has in preparation a brief, but comprehensive, article on the subject for early publication in THE SUN.

The Courier-Informant of Bartow declares, as the result of personal test by the editor, that the syrup made from Japanese cane is of the finest quality and superior to that made from the common varieties of cane now planted in Florida. At the same time, having tasted a sample bottle of syrup made from the Simpson (or white) variety, he declares no syrup made elsewhere in the country can beat it. He thus safely balances himself on the tetering plank of courtesy to subscribers who contributed to his taste for saccharine stuff and sits ready to have some more from others that would be equally as sweet.

EXPERIMENTING WITH ORANGES.

Says an enthusiastic exchange: "Think of orange gardens around the home in Norfolk, Richmond, Lynchburg, Lexington, Louisville, Cairo and perhaps in Cincinnati, St. Louis, Jefferson City and Kansas City." Just so, why not add Chicago, Boston, Minneapolis and Portland, while one is about it? A hardy orange. And botanists in the Department of Agriculture "hope to bring into being an orange tree that will be as the apple tree; an orange that will not perish in the chill of Northern winter." All this by crossing the Florida orange on what the writer calls the sturdy Japanese species, to-wit, Citrus trifoliata. May we all live long enough to see this triumph over nature and its laws of climate. The good traits—the bitter and the sweet—are to be combined. And pray, what good traits has the trifoliata, save as a stock on which to bud the kid-glove family of oranges?

In experimental work, many curious results are produced that are interesting to specialists, but of little value to the general public. For instance, one enthusiastic horticultural specialist crosses the blackberry on the raspberry and thus "mixes the breed" but improves upon neither. And we note in the new catalogues now being scattered abroad by seedsmen and nurserymen, that a "strawberry-raspberry" is being introduced. A strawberry with a raspberry flavor. Think of it, ye who hold, and justly, that no finer fruit than the strawberry was, is or will be given us by nature. Other instances might be cited,

but there is no need to multiply them. There are racial differences in fruits as well as in mankind.

FROG FARMING.

Florida, with its numberless swamps, bayheads and bayous, ought to be a good place for the frog farmer, now that the grown-up pollywog offers part of its anatomy as a delicious morsel to the epicure. Up in Pennsylvania the State Board of Agriculture takes such an interest in the matter that its Fish Commissioner has been experimenting, and a crop of 300,000 frogs have been raised and sent out to applicants. At two points in the State the frog hatcheries were failures; in one an epidemic broke out; in the other snakes got away with a hundred thousand of the pollywogs. So all is not gold that glitters, even in frog farming.

The raising of frogs, says a Philadelphia dispatch, is easier than the raising of poultry. "A frog a week old planted now will be fit for the table in a year, and in two years will be a monster," but not quite a Behemoth in size, we fancy. The "greenheads" are the favorite variety, and it is possible to grow two million to the acre.

It was a Frenchman, we believe, who first discovered the economic value of the hind legs of this croaking denison of swamps and low lands; but now in New York, Boston, Chicago and other large cities the chefs of clubs and millionaires and high-toned restaurants count on them as indispensable.

And, what quantities could be raised in Florida, adding another to its list of home industries.

Helpful Hints

(Continued from Sixth Page)

At Green Cove Springs, the home of Florida's village improvement associations, the members of the association recently gave their Christmas reception. Mrs. E. G. G. Munsell, the president, gave a few words of welcome, following which a short but very interesting program was rendered. The occasion will be made an annual event, inasmuch as Green Cove Springs again enjoys a renewal of life and activity after a season of almost Rip Van Winkleian sleep.

The V. I. A. of Green Cove survived disintegration and stands to-day, as of old, as a force for the accomplishment of great good. At the recent Christmas reception Mrs. Holt said:

"Mrs. President, Ladies of the V. I. A., and Friends—This is the first real Christmas the V. I. A. has enjoyed for many years, and I take this opportunity in the name of the club of making it a fitting occasion of tribute to our beloved president, who has with untiring energy and devotion guided our working band always for its best good, and for the ever advancement of our town and its people.

"So, with our appreciation of her great worth and with our united love, I present this token with the wish for her of every good gift that God and Christmas can bestow.

"So here's to our loyal president. Three cheers for her always. With a loving hand she will guide our band this working V. I. A."

Mrs. Munsell responded very feelingly with words of deep appreciation, and after Christmas refreshments and a merry chat, the company dispersed, all pleased with their Christmas celebration.

Why not let me hear from all the improvement societies throughout the State? Thus can we get in touch with each other through the columns of THE SUN, where there is a niche and welcome corner for the "V. I. A.s."

Did you ever think of it, how your surroundings affect you?

Of course you know how it works on your mentality, but did you ever think about its effects on your good looks and beauty?

I have been thinking somewhat along this line, but it never came to me so forcibly as this week, when I read of Mrs. Jeanette Pomeroy of London, whose mission on earth is to make women fairer.

Do not think that I am advertising a

"beauty doctor," "a masseur" or "dermatologist." Mrs. Pomeroy will come to this country soon, and will not only give a series of lectures, but will also give practical demonstrations of her views and systems, and all free of charge. She feels she is engaged in doing good work, and being a woman of more than ample means, she intends to tell us some things for our own good without the tinkle of the dollar coin to be heard.

By the conviction that certain laws and rules affected the appearance of her own sex, she began to give the subject intense, deep and thorough study. Charles Hemstrett, an author, who recently went to Europe in the interest of the American Institute of Social Science, says of Mrs. Pomeroy's visit:

"Mrs. Pomeroy is really coming to America to do a great and good work; she is going to spend a vast sum of money, and in return she will not receive a single cent. It is a philanthropy, pure and simple. Mrs. Pomeroy has a standard of measurement which approximates the beautiful. She has given twenty years of her life to the study of the question, and she has shown that she is able to raise the standards of beauty in her own sex by the methods that she employs.

"To speak generally, her theory is that the things that affect the senses react on the features and the bodies of those affected. Thus people who live in unsightly surroundings, where every sense is assailed by unpleasant things, become unsightly themselves. Constant living where bad odors exist, gradually causes even a beautiful nose to become ugly. Poor and badly-cooked food makes the mouth ugly; glaring colors, ugly pictures and crude sights disfigure the eyes; discordant music, raucous sounds and offenses to the sense of hearing cause the ears to become badly shaped. And all of these affect the body as well as the special features. The complexion, the color of the hair and eyes, everything, in fact, that goes to make up personal appearance, is governed by the way the senses are affected. If the sensations are ugly, then physical ugliness will result; if sensations are beautiful, then beauty will follow in natural sequence. This in brief is Mrs. Pomeroy's theory.

"But she is not merely coming to America to preach this gospel. She is coming to make a scientific study of American women."

RUSSIA'S ALLIES CHARGE JAPS WITH INHUMANITY.

A special from Tshanpon says: "A Manchurian merchant, about to return to his home after the war, with his family, consisting of seventeen persons, was set upon by a band of Jap marauders, who would not recognize their Russian passes. The Japs looted the caravan, stripped the Manchurians, men, women and children, and buried them alive."

No confirmation of the above has been received, and it is more than probable that the crime was committed by Chinese robbers.

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